

Area and Lodge Report

for the April 19, 2011 Annual General Meeting
of the Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club

Tracksetting

It's been a long season with lots of snow! The goal is to have a sufficient amount of trackset terrain on any given day. Clearing the road and parking lots after a heavy snowfall adds to the task of operating the area. The fuel budget was increased over last year, even so, this was exceeded somewhat.

There were no major breakdowns this year for the Pisten Bully. End of season maintenance includes sprocket drive replacement, broken cleats, and the normal lube, oil and filter changes.

A new Ginzu Groomer tracksetter was purchased this year as a back-up for when the PB may break down, and for early season grooming. It is to be used with the twin track snowmobile and packs a skating lane with a single track.

Trails & Area

As we all have seen, some logging was completed adjacent to the trails this year. In cooperation with The Wet'zink'wa Community Forest there was very little interruption to the ski trails; this was very much appreciated. Over the course of this summer, the club will be discussing the next phase of logging beetle wood in and around the trail system. This will possibly allow for some new trails and/or linkages.

As a result of logging two years ago, we were able to groom a new trail over one of the haul roads on the Pine Creek side in March.

At Christmastime, a "Lopper's Loppet" was arranged to help trim back ingrowing brush! Mowing cannot trim all the encroaching growth. A trail maintenance program will be initiated this coming season to upgrade our trail network, section by section, year after year. This will entail trail bed improvements, ditching, levelling, etc.

The Biathlon area will also undergo range and trail improvements this year.

Lodge & Wax Hut Annual Report

This year, both of the major capital projects that have been underway (wax hut & bathroom addition) were substantially completed.

The lodge is in good shape and there were only minor repairs this year. Once again, the level of tidiness was excellent; this is largely thanks to the "Ski Boosters"; the racers and racer families did twice weekly clean up and it showed. Thanks to Leslie Jean MacMillan and Kathy Wilford for organizing the ski boosters.

Due to some concerns about the amount of smoke that sometimes comes from our woodstove, we investigated options to replace our aging wood furnace with a cleaner, certified model. Unfortunately there are no certified wood furnaces in the size that we need, unless you install a very expensive "water boiler" model. In order to see any appreciable change in emissions, we would need to install a unit that costs over \$20,000, which is out of the range of our current budget. However, the technology and options for heating are evolving rapidly now and we will need to replace the furnace in 5 to 10 years so we will monitor this and continue to see if a better option emerges.

For the coming year, we do not plan to have a spring workbee as we are in pretty good shape for most of the chores. There will be two workbees in the fall for firewood and general lodge cleanup. If the funds are available, there will be work to install a new wood ceiling in the main lodge; this is a project that was always planned but never completed due to both time and cost. A wood ceiling will be designed not only to look more like a "lodge", but will also be designed to improve acoustics.

Thanks to Kevin Kriese for his attention to the lodge and for overseeing to completion the new bathroom addition; warm flush toilets have been appreciated by all!

Gary Murdoch Memorial Wax Hut

A large crew of volunteers put in many hours to construct this beautiful building. Dave Bustard organized the work and budgeting to complete the job, thanks Dave!
The dedication of the building will be at the AGM on Tuesday April 19th at 7pm.

Caretakers

A big Thank You to Shawn Clarke, Lou-Ann Dietrich, and little Isobel for keeping an eye on the area, the fire stoked, and the gates locked up. Their presence year 'round is very important.